

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 108268

EXDIS, NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNESCO 97TH XB MEETING MAY 9 AND
TALKS WITH DG M'BOW

REF: (A) STATE 104312; (B) PARIS 11549; (C) PARIS 11628;
(D) PARIS 11680; (E) PARIS 11681; (F) PARIS 11682

DEPT MUCH APPRECIATES BROAD SOUNDINGS WITH KEY SECRETARIAT
OFFICIALS AND EX BD MEMBERS AND THOUGHTFUL ACTION AND
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH U.S. REP SCHERER, PERM REP
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF U.S. DEL HAVE PROVIDED REFTELS. DEPT
COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW:

1. RE RESOLUTION ON COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO
PREPARE A CONVENTION ON RECOGNITION OF STUDIES AND DEGREES
IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES BORDER-
ING ON MEDITERRANEAN: IF RESOLUTION IN PARA 11 OF PAGE 4
OF ANNEX III (97 EX/9) IS PUT TO VOTE IN ITS ENTIRETY, U.S.
REP SHOULD VOTE NO SINCE IT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ISRAEL.

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SINCE WE WILL VOTE AGAINST RES AS A WHOLE, WE WOULD, FOR

CONSISTENCY, VOTE AGAINST ALL SEPARATE PARAS IF PUT TO SEPARATE VOTE ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PREFER MERELY VOTE ON RES AS A WHOLE.

2. RE RESOLUTION ON CONFERENCE OF STATES FOR ADOPTION OF CONVENTION ON RECOGNITION OF STUDIES AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARAB AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BORDERING ON MEDITERRANEAN: YOU SHOULD ALSO VOTE NO FOR SAME REASON.

3. DEPT APPROVES GENERAL TONE AND CONTENT OF EXPLANATION OF VOTE RECOMMENDED PARA 6, REFTEL F. STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE MORE IN REGRET THAN IN ANGER. STATEMENT SHOULD ALSO INCORPORATE AND REFLECT FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) ALTHOUGH YOUR IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE WILL BE THE UNESCO EX BD, YOU WILL BE IN EFFECT ADDRESSING A MUCH LARGER AUDIENCE IN THE U.S. PUBLIC AND IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. IF STATEMENT IS PHRASED IN APPARENTLY VEILED AND TECHNICAL TERMS WHICH PRESUPPOSE INSIDE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF PAST UNESCO RESOLUTIONS AND CONFERENCES, THE FULL IMPACT AND THE POTENTIALLY HELPFUL EFFECT OF U.S. STATEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE MUTED.

(B) STATEMENT SHOULD MENTION THAT ONLY ONE EDITER-RANEAN STATE IS EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS.

(C) STATEMENT SHOULD ALSO MENTION THAT AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS, ACADEMICIANS, SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS, ARTISTS, WRITERS AND ALL THOSE WHO COMPRISE UNESCO'S NATURAL AND, IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MOST ACTIVE SUPPORTERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS FURTHER DISCRIMINATORY DECISION TAKEN BY UNESCO MEMBERS. THESE SAME PEOPLE FIND IT EQUALLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNESCO'S MEMBERS, AFTER HAVING ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 21, 1974, A RESOLUTION "RECOGNIZING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE WHEREBY EVERY MEMBER STATE HAS THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND REGULARLY IN THE ORGANIZATION'S REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES", THEN TAKE FURTHER
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DECISIONS WHICH ARE IN FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION OF THE PRINCIPLES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES.

4. U.S. DEL SHOULD ALSO EXERT STRONGEST POSSIBLE EFFORTS WITH OTHER DELS TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM NUMBER OF "NO" VOTES ON RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE.

5. DEPT HAS THESE COMMENTS ON SERIES OF REPORTING AND RECOMMENDATION CABLES REFS B-F. YOU MAY DRAW ON THESE COMMENTS SELECTIVELY IN TALKS WITH M'BOW.

(A) DEPT AGREES WITH GENERAL CONCEPTS OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS AS RECOMMENDED IN REF E. AT SAME TIME WE THINK THAT U.S. REP SCHERER HAS GRAPHICALLY CONVEYED TO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND TO KEY REPS. THE SENSE OF URGENCY U.S. FEELS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BEGIN RIGHT NOW CORRECTING UNESCO'S DELETERIOUS ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.

(B) WE NOTE THAT NAJMAN, WYNTER AND OTHERS FREQUENTLY VOICE THEIR DEEP CONCERN OVER LOSS OF U.S. INTELLECTUAL INPUT INTO UNESCO AND TERM THIS LOSS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN LOSS OF U.S. FUNDING. AT SAME TIME, THEY ARE APPARENTLY REQUESTING FROM US A FURTHER COOLING OFF OR "INDEFINITE DEPOLITICIZATION" OF UNESCO. THEY SHOULD BE MADE TO SEE THE CONTRADICTION IN THEIR POSITION, I.E. THAT THE LONGER UNESCO POSTPONES ACTION ON CORRECTING ITS ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIONS, THE DEEPER THE ESTRANGEMENT WILL GROW BETWEEN AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS AND UNESCO.

(C) SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH THEY UNDOUBTEDLY DO NOT INTEND IT THIS WAY, NAJMAN'S AND DG M'BOW'S APPARENT CONCEPT OF DEPOLITICIZATION IS ONE IN WHICH UNESCO'S CURRENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL IS SUBJECT TO CONTINUATION FOR AN INDETERMINATE PERIOD.

(D) WE DO NOT DETECT IN COMMENTS OF SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS OF EUROPEAN REPS ANY SENSE OF NEED FOR A STRATEGY FOR CORRECTING UNESCO'S POLITICAL ACTIONS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE LIMITATIONS ON PROBABLE ACTION BY THIS EXEC
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BOARD, WE WISH USE THE OCCASION TO STIMULATE CONCERN ABOUT NEED FOR SUCH MOVEMENT AND TO ENCOURAGE EARLY FORMULATION OF IDEAS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE IT.

(E) HIGH UNESCO OFFICIALS AND EUROPEAN REPS ALSO SEEM TO VIEW CURRENT UNESCO CRISIS ALMOST SOLELY IN TERMS OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION. U.S. SHOULD REITERATE THAT PRIMARY ISSUE IS RETURN OF UNESCO TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSALITY, NONDISCRIMINATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF DIALOGUE, FREE OF DIVISIVE POLITICAL ISSUES AMONG ALL MEMBER STATES.

(F) WE SHALL BE INTERESTED IN U.S. DEL'S FURTHER VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING A RESOLUTION AT THIS SESSION OF EX BD REAFFIRMING ABOVE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF

UNESCO.

(G) U.S. REP SHOULD EXPRESS TO DG M'BOW OUR DEEP
SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR ADMIRABLE JOB HE HAS DONE AND
CONTINUES TO DO UNDER MOST TRYING OF CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR
CONFIDENCE IN HIM, WHICH WAS WARMLY AND STRONGLY EX-
PRESSED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING CONTINUES UNDIMINISHED.
WE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND
COMMITMENT IN TRYING TO PREVENT FURTHER POLITICAL
CONTROVERSIES SUCH AS ENHANCEMENT OF STATUS OF PLO WHICH
WOULD BE DEMAGING TO UNESCO AS ORGANIZATION AND TO U.S.
ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN UNESCO'S
IMPORTANT PROGRAMS. KISSINGER

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